

**Tennessee Trails Association
Board of Directors' Meeting Minutes
Saturday February 04, 2017
REI Meeting Room, Brentwood TN**

PRESENT: Carolyn Miller, Bruce Whitehead, Kathy Woods, Cheryl Heckler, Jackie York, Garnett Rush, Joan Hartvigsen, Ken Johnson, Paul Schwab, Marvin Caine, Rosemary Marshall, Jim Poteet, Melinda Pearson, Sara Pollard, Doug Burroughs, Bob Obohoski, Louise Miniard, Bob Richards

ABSENT: Margaret Dixon, Don Dresser, Mary Etta Ward, Charlie Bright, Rob Weber, Frank Jamison

GUESTS PRESENT: Michael Richards, Tom Hartvigsen

Meeting called to order by Carolyn Miller, TTA President, at 1:08 p.m.

Welcome and Introductions – Carolyn Miller

Approval of General Membership Meeting Minutes and 4th Qtr Board Meeting Minutes

The General Membership Meeting Minutes were approved as distributed with a **Motion** by Cheryl Heckler, seconded by Bruce Whitehead - Motion carried.

The 4th Quarter Board Meeting Minutes were approved as amended to remove Millette Jones from absent (no longer a board member) with a Motion by Garnett Rush, seconded by Kathy Woods - Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report – Kathy Woods

The Treasurer's report documents were circulated via email prior to the meeting for review. Also attached now is the revised budget document that was circulated a few days after the February Board meeting with modifications to increase funds allocated for Evan Means Grants and TTA Website Development. < 4 attached> There was discussion on the main income coming from Memberships and the Annual Meeting, and that the chapters get \$3 per member with \$100 minimum and \$300 maximum amounts. Carolyn Miller stated that an audit will still be needed this year after the separation from CTC and plans to use Parsons and Wright as in the past, with the price being the same \$3500 as last year. Jim Poteet from Highland Rim chapter presented a check to return a \$1000 Evan Means Grant for the Short Springs SNA Bobo Creek Bridge since TVA paid for the bridge. Agenda order changes were made to have Evan Means Grants and Website presentations proceed next before finishing the budget discussion. After the Evan Means Grants discussion a funding increase from \$3500 to \$5000 was proposed with a **Motion** by Joan Hartvigsen to approve, seconded by Marvin Caine - Motion carried. After discussion and a presentation on the website development project a funding increase from \$10,000 to \$16,000 was proposed with a **Motion** by Garnett Rush to approve, seconded by Joan Hartvigsen - Motion carried. Carolyn Miller requested that the budget be approved as amended. There was discussion on

why 400 newsletters are still being printed when many TTA members now receive theirs electronically. Carolyn Miller proposed that a committee be formed for newsletter print / email process review.

Membership Report – Cheryl Heckler

The Membership report documents were circulated via email prior to the meeting for review. <attached> There was discussion on the changes related to the separation with the CTC where purchasing their membership no longer entitles a person to get a TTA membership for \$5 and purchasing a TTA membership no longer entitles a person to purchase a CTC membership for \$5. The TTA newsletter still needs to be changed to omit the \$5 CTC membership reference. There was discussion on why 400 newsletters are still being printed when many TTA members now receive theirs electronically. The Membership Committee of Joan Hartvigsen, Bob Richards, Cheryl Heckler, and Doug Burroughs will review the newsletter print / email process.

NEW BUSINESS

Evan Means Grants

The grant request documents were circulated via email prior to the meeting for review. Bob Richards presented a \$1000 request from T.O. Fuller State Park for trail bridges which he recommended for full funding, a \$2000 request from Historic Rugby, Inc. for publication of new trail maps and building two trailhead kiosks, and a \$3000 request from CTC for the 2017 Fall Big Dig. **Motion** made by Carolyn Miller to change the funding for the CTC from \$3000 to \$1000 and from \$2000 to \$1000 for Historic Rugby, Inc. for two trail kiosks only, seconded by Louise Miniard – Motion carried. It was clarified that Evan Means Grant funds are unrestricted.

2017 Annual Meeting Update – Sara Pollard

- October 13 – 15, 2017
- No live auction.
- Will accept chapter donations.
- Board Vote: Disposition of 2017 Annual Meeting proceeds

Motion by Joan Hartvigsen: silent and white elephant fundraising proceeds from the 2017 annual meeting be for the Evan Means Small Grant Program. Second by Paul Schwab. Motion carried.

Committee Appointments

Nominating Committee: Sara Pollard, Carolyn Miller

Awards Committee: Joan Hartvigsen, Garnett Rush, Carolyn Miller

Membership Committee: Cheryl Heckler, Bob Richards, Joan Hartvigsen, Doug Burroughs

Website Committee: Jim Poteet, Charlie Bright, Bob Richards, Doug Burroughs.

Bylaw Committee: Bruce Whitehead, Carolyn Miler, Bob Richards, Jim Poteet

OLD BUSINESS

Bylaws Update - Bruce Whitehead

* Timeline for review and draft copy to board for April 29 meeting.

* Must be approved by the board on or before August 5 board meeting to allow membership to have proper notice prior to October general membership meeting.

TTA Website

Michael Richards from Richards Design Group Inc. presented a proposal for the design of a new TTA Wordpress website with the development cost not to exceed \$15,300. The presentation included a multi-page handout with details of the website structure, design development, project timeframe, website ownership, and site hosting and maintenance. After discussion by the board, it was decided that after a second Wordpress proposal is received and reviewed a decision will be made on this proposal. The Website Committee will proceed with acquiring the second Wordpress proposal, **Motion by** Joan Hartvigsen, seconded by Paul Schwab – Motion carried.

Chapter Reports

Clarksville – Ken Johnson

No report.

Columbia / Franklin – Marvin Caine

Below is the Columbia/Franklin Chapter Report. I plan to attend the Board Meeting Saturday.

The Columbia/Franklin Chapter is in transition. Carolyn Watson resigned as Chapter Chair late 2016. Others in leadership positions had resigned earlier for various reasons. No one agreed to be Chapter Chair when we last met in December.

Jane Coffey, hiking coordinator, however, has continued to pursue a hiking agenda and we have had various hikes over the last few months and have two scheduled for February. We plan to join the Highland Rim Chapter for a hike at Rock Island State Park in March. We canceled our January and February meetings, but will have one in March. Jane Coffey and I have now agreed to be co-chairs temporarily.

East Tennessee –

No report

Highland Rim – Mary Etta Ward (Jim Poteet)

Submitted by Joan Hartvigsen for Mary Etta Ward, Chair.

The 2017 Chapter Officers. Chair – Mary Etta Ward. Secretary & Blogmaster – Tanja Kendrick. Treasurer/Membership – Marietta Poteet. Hiking & Program Coordinator & TTA Newsletter Contact – Joan Hartvigsen.

Our Chapter worked several days at Short Springs State Natural Area to clear blown down trees from trails. A tornado struck Short Springs in late November uprooting hundreds of trees.

Our Chapter enjoyed two major social events. Marcia Medford hosted our Christmas party at her home in Sewanee. Marietta Poteet led a hike to Piney Point on the Sewanee Perimeter Trail prior to our Christmas Party. The Poteets held their fifteenth annual Chilly Chili Hike. Marietta Poteet led a hike to Lake Dimmick on the Sewanee Domain prior to the Chili lunch. Hikers from Highland Rim, Nashville and Murfreesboro Chapters attended.

We enjoyed programs on hiking the Dingle Way in Ireland and canoeing The Boundary Waters in Superior National Forest.

Many of our members are active in Friends Groups supporting Tennessee State Parks and Natural Areas. They attended the Annual Friends of Tennessee State Parks Conference at Fall Creek Falls State Park in November.

We held our annual post Thanksgiving Day Hike at Old Stone Fort State Park with the Murfreesboro Chapter. We have led hikes on the Cumberland Trail in Prentice Cooper State Forest, Fall Creek Falls State Park, Sewanee Perimeter Trail and Short Springs State Natural Area.

Jackson – Melinda Pearson

No report

Memphis – Charlie Bright (absent)

No report

Murfreesboro – Sara Pollard

We had our traditional after Thanksgiving hike with the Highland Rim chapter at Old Stone Fort was again this year. We planned a December backpacking trip to Hobbs Cabin but it had to be cancelled due to the water shortage and fire ban. It was extremely cold that particular weekend in December. We had our annual New Year's Day hike at Edgar Evins State Park. We hiked at Long Hunter State Park and participated in the 15th Annual Chilly Chili Hike. For the Chili Hike we met in Sewanee and hiked the Lake Dimmick Trail to Lake Dimmick and then had chili at the Poteets' home in Monteagle.

We have 43 chapter members. Our chapter meetings continue to be well attended. In November we planned hikes for January-June 2017. Our chapter Christmas party was in December. Chapter members recognized their chapter chair Sara Pollard with a poster signed by them and presented her with a gift in appreciation. January we had an informal chapter meeting to discuss ways to get more members to join TTA and marketing strategies to advertise our organization.

Officers for 2017 are:

- Sara Pollard, Chapter Chair
- Ann Jacobs, Treasurer
- Valerie Galan, Program Coordinator
- Jennifer Zahn, Hike and Membership Coordinator
- Craig McBride, Blogmaster

We have a new addition to our chapter. Chapter members Alan and Jessica Connelly welcomed Felicity Aren who was born January 15 and weighed 7 lbs. 2 oz. Her proud grandparents are chapter members Andy and Sherry Meeks.

Nashville – Doug Burroughs

October - December 2016

* Nashville TTA. Chapter membership is 93 as of July 2016. This is a decrease of 1 since the last quarterly report.

* Chapter Officers

- Chair: Doug Burroughs
- Treasurer: June Callahan
- Hike Coordinator: Nancy Juodenas
- Programs Coordinator: Nora Beck

* Ten hikes were scheduled and published in the TTA Newsletter:

- Bells Bend Park Nashville
- Pogue Creek Canyon State Natural Area and Pickett State Park
- Joyce Kilmer Memorial Forest – Group Camping weekend
- A tour of several Tennessee National Wildlife Refuges west of Nashville
- Bryant Grove Trail, Long Hunter State Park

- Thanksgiving Morning Hike – Warner Park Nashville
- Nashville Urban Hike
- Warner Parks Nashville
- Montgomery Bell State Park in Burns TN

* The Nashville Chapter's regular monthly meetings continue on the 4th Tuesday of each month at the REI store in Brentwood TN, except for May (Annual Picnic at Warner Park) and December (Annual Holiday Party). Because we have the holiday party in place of the December meeting, there were two monthly meeting topics this quarter:

- October: Kassie Rice discussed hiking the Benton MacKaye trail.
- November: Candace Etheridge reported on her ongoing research and listing of books and films about hiking.

* The Nashville Chapter again wrapped gifts at the REI store in Brentwood in exchange for donations, with proceeds dedicated to the Cumberland Trails Conference. This year, \$502.11 was collected. This event was organized by Amy Sutton.

* Amy Sutton also continues to collect mail from the statewide TTA mailbox at the Melrose Post Office in Nashville and process as needed. Membership applications/renewals are forwarded to the Membership Director, etc.

* The Nashville Chapter continues to collate, label, fold, tab, stamp and mail out the printed copies of the TTA Newsletter each month. This process is coordinated by Diane Manas.

Plateau – Cheryl Heckler

- Our membership is 56 as of 1/17/2017. Since the Annual meeting we have 3 new memberships.
- The 2017 Chapter Officers: Chair, Membership, & Saturday Hike Coordinator – Cheryl Heckler; Co-Chair (TTA Board Representative) – Bob Obohoski; Treasurer & Blogmaster – Bill Quattrociocchi; Asst Treasurer – Gena Whitehead; Wednesday Hike Coordinator – Bruce Whitehead; Hike Advisory – Bill Harris; TTA Newsletter – Carolyn Miller; Local Newspaper – Jim McCullough; Trail Maintenance Coordinator – Marcy Tucker; Social Events – Carol Quattrociocchi; Program Coordinator – Nancy Brainard.
- Our chapter enjoyed doing the National Parks 100 mile Centennial Challenge for Big South Fork and Great Smoky Mountain National parks last year we created our own 100 mile Challenge with the Cumberland Trail. We worked with Marianne at the CTC office creating the form. After completing the challenge
- Our chapter hikes every Wednesday and two Saturdays per month all 12 months of the year. We hiked Cumberland Trail, Big South Fork, Great Smoky National Park, Cardwell Mt, Pickett SP, Bald River, Obed Wild & Scenic River, Burgess Falls SP, and Piney Falls SNA. One hike was combined with East TN Chapter on Black Mt.
- Programs at our Chapter meetings were: TennGreen by Steve Walsh and Wind Turbines by Sarah Southall and Mary Kopmeier. In place of a Chapter meeting we had a fun Christmas Party enjoying a pot luck, drink, Dirty Santa gift exchange and the 1st 50-50 drawing, where three persons will share 50% of the pot.
- The chapter bought a canopy, table & banner for the display at the Hit the Trails festival and other events that the Chapter participates with a display. We have Plateau Chapter t-shirts for members to purchase.

- The chapter earned \$190 in a 50/50 draw.
- The Plateau Chapter did maintenance on Black Mountain, Heiss Mountain, and Daddy's Creek.

Soddy Daisy – Jean Smith

Report sent by Ed Pyers –

Jean Smith Chairman
George Bonneau Hiking Coordinator
Bob McGavock Treasurer

- Chapter membership at 29.
- During the first quarter the chapter conducted over 20 hikes.
- Our chapter held 1 over night hike.
- Chapter held its annual Christmas dinner.
- Our chapter will be at Pickett State Park for a 2 nights in February.
- Our next chapter meeting will Feb 7th

Sumner Trails – Lynn Takas (absent)

No report

Motion by Carolyn Miller to adjourn the meeting; Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 4:38 p.m. (CT)

Respectfully Recorded,

Jackie York
Secretary, Tennessee Trails Association